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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BALDWIN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 4, 2010.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY BALDWIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, so blessed are we in the United States of America that when we hear Your words of blessing upon Abram, the great man of faith, we hear those words as spoken to the very soul of this Nation.

"I will make of you a great Nation, and I will bless you. I will make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the Earth shall find blessing in you."

And the people said: Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

LEAVING AFGHANISTAN

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. There is a new way to fight war in Afghanistan. U.S. commanders are publicly telling the Taliban when we are coming and where we are going to be to wage war. This, while Karzai tries to cut a deal with the Taliban. Meanwhile, a large offensive is being mounted, an assault on Kandahar. The U.S. is going to have 100,000 troops mounted for a big battle by autumn. We're using 1.1 million gallons of fuel a day, logistical problems abound.

Here is a quote from the February 20 National Journal: So despite the immense effort to push out supplies, frontline fighters sometimes don't even have the minimum they need. "We had guys out there at the outpost in an area of operations starving because we couldn't get a resupply into them," said one major.

Now, will the surge change that? And what's this all about? To strengthen and corrupt the central government which is building villas in Dubai?

I am bringing a privileged resolution to the floor to get out of Afghanistan, and I urge your support.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. You know, I think after yet another health care speech by the President, the American people are sick and tired of the Democrats' "I know what's best for you" attitude. Congress needs to wake up and realize that Americans know more about their health care needs than the government bureaucrats. They know exactly what a Washington takeover of health care means, and they're shouting from the rooftops: No, no, no.

It's time for the President and Speaker PELOSI to realize that this policy debate isn't between Democrats and Republicans; it's between the Democrats and the American people. And the American people are saying, Enough is enough. They don't want a health care bill that raise taxes, stifles small business, increases insurance premiums, and cuts Medicare.

If the Democrats insist on ramming this bill through against the will of the American people, then they'd better be prepared to suffer the consequences in November.

PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Peace Corps.

This week the Peace Corps celebrates their 49th anniversary. Since 1961 nearly 200,000 volunteers have served in 139 countries around the world. These talented and selfless volunteers have made lasting contributions in agriculture, business development, sustainable infrastructure, education, health,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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